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4-H CLUB MEMBERS AS PRODUCERS ON THE FARM

A radio interview between Walter Britten, Carson County, Texas, and Winona Schultz, Bastrop County, Texas, broadcast Saturday, June 5, 1937 in the National 4-H Club program, by 76 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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Announcer: We now present two 4-H club members from the State of Texas. They have a real task to represent all of the Lone Star State. Texas is big. Here in Chicago we are nearer to the people in Texarkana, Texas, than they are to the people of El Paso, Texas.

Well, let me present our two 4-H visitors from the State of Texas.

Winona Schultz, comes from Bastrop County, near Austin, the capitol of the state.

Walter Britten, the 4-H club boy, of Groom, Carson County, comes from way up north in the Panhandle section. You'd hardly call Winona and Walter close neighbors. It's 600 miles from Groom to Bastrop. Winona comes from a typical cotton growing section. Walter was born and reared on a 1200-acre wheat farm. On the way up here, Walter and Winona fell to comparing the agricultural situation in their respective communities. In spite of the fact that the farm crops grown are entirely different, they found that the basic farm problems in each community are virtually the same. They agreed that farm young folks need to appreciate farming as a fascinating way of living, rather than just a means of earning a living; also the people need to get away from a one crop system of farming; they need a better understanding of the agricultural problems from a national standpoint; and they need effective leadership. After all, these problems are important in all sections of our country.

But let's see what these young people have to say for themselves.

Walter, what has 4-H club work meant to you?

Walter:

It has meant much more to me than I can say, but I'm really only a beginner, with about four years' work completed. Winona is an old timer with eight years' experience, so I think we should hear from her first.

Winona:

Thank you, Walter! My eight years of 4-H club work have taught me that by consistent effort anyone can attain a goal, that may at first seem far out of reach. I know. Eight years ago a college education seemed impossible for me. Yet here I am in college now. Money I made from a 4-H poultry flock is paying most of my way.

Announcer:

Winona, I'm told that you started with a poultry demonstration and that your first year's profit amounted to seventy-five cents. Now from that beginning you've built a flock of chickens that's paying your way through college?

(over)

Winona:

Well, that's probably putting it too strongly. The chickens alone weren't responsible for my going to college. But I did increase my tiny poultry flock until it paid me a profit of \$150.00 a year.

Working with my first flock of a few old hens taught me that with a small investment, by using the materials at hand, I could make some money. To show you how I cut expenses; I needed a brooder for raising baby chicks, but didn't feel that I could afford to buy one. We had a discarded water storage tank at home, so I cut the top part off this tank and used it for my brooder, with kerosene burners for heat. The chicks thrived in spite of having a water tank for their first home.

Announcer:

Well, so often it's not so much what you do as the skill and shrewdness that you develop in doing it that makes 4-H club work such practical training for life. But don't let me get philosophical, Winona. You just go ahead and tell us how your flock grew from a few chicks up to the point where it paid you a real money income.

Winona:

Well, my first year in poultry work, as you have so kindly reminded me, made me a profit of only seventy-five cents. But I stayed with this demonstration for the entire eight years, and did build up a flock that yielded me about \$150 a year. That's all there is to it.

Announcer:

But not all there is to the record of your 4-H work in the past eight years.

Winona:

No. Not exactly.

Announcer:

Well tell us about your other projects.

Winona:

All right.

My second year I added clothing and food preservation to poultry work. I completed three simple garments and canned 23 1/2 quarts of fruits and vegetables.

The third year I made my first dress and learned to mend and keep my clothes in good order. I also started a yard improvement demonstration, learned to prepare meals, and canned 375 quarts of fruits, vegetables and meat.

In my fourth year, gardening became my chief productive demonstration. I gathered 1010 pounds of 27 varieties of vegetables, canned 300 quarts of food, and made 15 garments.

The fifth year, in addition to poultry and garden work, I built a standard 4-H pantry and filled it with 592 quarts of canned products planned to meet the daily food needs of our family. The canned products were valued at \$114.81. I also produced standardized grape and tomato juices for sale and made an individual exhibit of them at the county fair. My profits had increased each year -- this year reaching \$273.42.

In my sixth year, I continued the work I had started but spent most of my time on clothing and yard improvement demonstrations. I planned and selected my wardrobe, making 39 garments, and built and equipped a closet for proper storage of my clothes. A rose garden and permanent foundation and screening shrubs were the important improvements in yard work.

Announcer:

These demonstrations must have cost more money out of pocket than the productive phases of the work, and they brought no cash returns.

Winona:

Yes, they did cost more, but the improvements in our family home were lasting. The seventh year I built a new and modern hen house for my flock -- so again my profits were lower -- \$246.06.

During my eighth year I demonstrated how to refinish and refurnish a bedroom. I completely remade my bedroom, spending many hours refinishing floors and furniture, making bedding protectors, bedroom linens, and light weight covers. My feather comfort I'm especially proud of -- I used the feather mattress mother had saved from my baby bed and spent \$4.50 for ticking and cover to make a comfort valued at \$15 -- and do I sleep cozy!

The last year, I had fewer chickens because I planned to go to college in the fall and mother did not need so many. I culled and sold some hens for laying purposes, canned some, and sold the fryers, leaving mother 50 good hens and some fryers. I was much pleased to be able through good feeding and proper management to raise the labor income from \$1.48 to \$2.45 per hen. My profits from club work the last year reached \$495.02.

Announcer:

So as a result of your club work you have a small but selected purebred flock of poultry, and good poultry yard equipment.

Winona:

Yes, and also as a result of my club work we now have a well organized pantry full of an interesting variety of good food. My clothing and other club work have given me self-assurance and made it easier for me to work with other people. I have a pretty, well ordered bedroom. Our yard is attractive because the shrubs are well arranged and the lawn is spacious and inviting. I do feel that through 4-H club work I have contributed in many ways to the attractiveness, the efficiency, and the happiness of my home.

Walter:

I've been interested, Winona, in the way your work has grown each year. Surely other people of the community must have received inspiration from your work during these eight years.

Winona:

Yes, many of them have seen my demonstrations during regular club meetings and achievement programs. They have encouraged me and it has been a pleasure to me to pass on the things I've learned that may help other women and girls make better homes for their families.

Announcer:

That's a grand story of yours, Winona. But here we are about to forget Walter Britten, our 4-H boy visitor from Texas. Walter, tell us something of your work.

Walter:

Well, the story of my work follows more or less the same pattern as Winona's. I started out in a small way, with one beef calf. I've kept beef calf feeding as my major demonstrations all the way through. In my second year, I grew a feed crop and increased my feeding work to five calves. Then in my third year, I jumped to 20 acres of feed crop and 15 calves, along with a nice flock of poultry. I also fed out 21 head of calves in 1936 for the Texas Centennial Show at Dallas, and showed 11 head of hogs in our show last March.

Announcer:

How about the profit end of your work? Were your profits as consistent as the improvement in Winona's demonstrations?

Walter:

Yes, by watching my costs all along, I managed to show a profit every year. The first year it was \$54.74. The second was \$328.64. The third year \$518.15, and so far this year I have a profit of \$643.61, and still have a feed crop to grow and harvest and a poultry flock still on hand. In all I have fed 43 calves, 23 hogs, raised 30 acres of feed and 379 chickens.

Announcer:

That sounds mighty smooth. I guess it went off "Bang, Bang," just like that, did it?

Walter:

It might sound that way to hear about it. But instead of going off like a bang, I nearly went out with a bang once or twice. A cyclone killed 500 baby chicks and three years of drought isn't much of a comfort to a fellow growing feed crops and feeding out calves.

Announcer:

Is there any special method that you use in feeding your calves that you would like to recommend to the boys that may be listening in?

Walter:

No, Mr. Mitchell, I don't think there is anything out of the ordinary in my method of feeding. I use home grown grains as a basis for my rations, and buy just as little supplemental feeds as possible.

Announcer:

How about nurse cows? Do you use those?

Walter:

Many Texas 4-H club boys have made wonderful records with their show animals and have used nurse cows, but I started to learn to be a commercial feeder, and I don't believe a commercial feeder would get very far using nurse cows.

Announcer:

How has your work affected your community? In other words, are the neighbors interested in it?

Walter:

Yes, they are. While my Centennial calves were on feed, we kept a close check and found that nearly one thousand people came to see them, and I am sure that what little success I may have had has encouraged other boys to do 4-H club work.

Announcer:

In a general way what would you say the effect of 4-H club work is on the average boy or girl, Walter?

Walter:

My observation has been that club work helps boys and girls to find themselves quicker than any other way, Mr. Mitchell. They learn to make definite plans, to set definite goals, and to follow those plans until the goal is reached. The older people at home tell me that they have learned to rely on 4-H club boys and that they can depend on them to do well any task that is assigned them.

Announcer:

They tell me that you have had a good bit of experience in organizing club boys in your community. Is it hard to get them interested in this kind of work?

Walter:

No, it isn't hard to get the boys lined up, but it is sometimes hard to get the parents sold on the idea. A few fail sometimes to see the real value of 4-H training in after life, and some are slow to give the encouragement that a fellow needs to get over some of the rough places.

Announcer:

Too bad. But that attitude of some parents is just one more of those "rough places" that have to be smoothed out. Now tell us about that band you have down at Groom.

Walter:

A lot of the boys enrolled in our club were playing in the High School Band, so we organized them into a 27-piece 4-H club band, and the band director assisted in training new boys that enrolled. It was the first 4-H Band organized in Texas, and naturally we are proud of it. It was designated as the official 4-H Club Band at the Rally at the Centennial in Dallas last fall, broadcast two programs, and gave a concert before the sale of club calves. Incidentally, we insist on each boy keeping his club work up to certain standards before he is allowed to play in the band.

Announcer:

How about it, Walter, as president of the state organization in Texas, do you have any particular comment that you want to make to boys of club age?

Walter:

Yes, of course, Mr. Mitchell, I'm like most people - like to give advice, and I hope everyone will take it all right, even if I sound a little too wise for my years. I would suggest that every boy of club age carry some sort of demonstration. The younger they start, the better. Then I would recommend that they take an active part in all club meetings to develop their ability as speakers and leaders. Then I would suggest that each boy increase his demonstration gradually each year, until he is running a miniature farm with cash crops, livestock enterprises and above all a good set of farm records.

Announcer:

That sounds like a mighty ambitious program, but I don't find any fault with it, and I am also sure that any boy who follows that sort of program is sure to develop into a useful and substantial citizen. Winona, in the closing minutes of this program, and to keep up the tradition of the ladies always having the last word, do you have anything that you can add?

Winona:

Yes, I wish to express our appreciation for the invitation to appear on this program, and to those who chose us to represent the Lone Star State, and to pledge for the more than 50,000 4-H boys and girls in Texas the same high type of work and service that is being done by the million other boys and girls under the 4-H banner in the United States. It has been a real pleasure to be here.

Announcer:

Ad lib sign off and return to Washington on standard cue.

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